to the Hospital by a medical subordinate attached to the out-patients' ward in the Civil Hospital at Trichur;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state if they have received any petition in regard to it, and, if so, the name of the Medical Officer concerned;

(c) will the Government be pleased to state whether there has been any complaint against the said Medical Officer, whether any have been recorded by his immediate superiors, and whether he has served in any other station, and, if so, whether there had been complaints against him there also ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) The article has been perused.

(b) Yes. Assistant Surgeon Mr C. L. Joseph.

(c) Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the charge referred to in the petition ?

President.—The question is put to you, Dr. Verghese.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes, Sir.

President.—Is this a supplementary question ? Why did you not put it then as a substantial question ?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—They have received a petition. What is the charge contained in the petition ?

President.—We have to look into the petition to answer this. This is a matter which does not arise from the answer. If a supplementary question arises from the answer, I can understand it. This is a main question which you could have put along with the other questions.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the nature of the complaint referred to in the petition ?

President.—You could have put the question whether there has been any complaint, and if so, what the complaint was. That does not arise from the answer now given.

433. **Dr. A. R. Menon.**—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one of the Assistant Surgeons attached to the Trichur Hospital assaulted lately a patient attending the above hospital ;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state:—

i. whether the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer received any communication about the occurrence from the officer in charge of the institution;

ii. what disciplinary action has been taken against the officer concerned;

(c) whether they will be pleased to place on the table all the correspondence relating to this incident ?

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Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) There has been no assault of any kind.

(b) i. A report of what transpired to be rude behaviour on the part of the officer concerned was received by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

ii. The officer was reported to the Government for punishment.

(c) No public interest is served by publishing this correspondence.

The supply of drinking water in Nemmara.

434. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(1) why they have stopped the distribution of drinking water in Nemmara, especially this year, when there had been no normal rainfall;

(2) why they have removed the engine from the site;

(3) whether they will be pleased to make arrangements for water distribution from the middle of Kumbham?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) The Government are making permanent arrangements for supplying water to Nemmara. The works are not yet complete.

(2) The Boring Plant was wanted elsewhere.

(3) It is not possible.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Has the Government been able to give water since?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes. I was able to start the engine on Sunday last.

The inconvenience to the public by collecting metals, etc., on the sides of the roads.

435. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware of the hardship and inconvenience caused to the public by the collection of metals for repair on the sides of the roads for about 6 months in the year;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what steps they have taken or propose to take to remove the inconvenience;

(c) whether they are aware of the danger and inconvenience caused to the public by the existence of the large number of Irish drains in the public roads;

(d) if the answer is in the affirmative, what steps they have taken or propose to take to remove them?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) As a rule, metal for renewals is collected only for about one fifth of the length of any road in a year. Metal for repairs does not present any real inconvenience, as there will be only one or two heaps in a furlong.

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